

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02294 062033Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 /047 W

-----062337Z 087718 /66

R 061915Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0298

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2294

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PA, SZ

SUBJ:REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF PARAGUAYAN
POLITICAL PRISONER MARTINO ROLON CENTURION

REF: BERN 2437

1. AS FAR AS EMBASSY CAN DETERMINE,MARTIN (OR MARTINO)
ROLONCENTURION IS DEAD. WHEN AMBASSADOR RAISES SUBJECT
WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR ON MAY 31, THE MINISTER SAID
THAT MARTIN ROLON WAS KILLED BY THE POLICE IN A SHOOT-OUT
ON APRIL 4, 1976. HE CITED A MINISTRY PRESS BULLETIN
DATED APRIL 7, 1976, WHICH STATED THAT WHEN THE POLICE
RAIDED A HOUSE NEAR ASUNCION ON APRIL 4, THEY WERE
RECEIVED BY GUN FIRE AND THAT IN THE EXCHANGE THAT
FOLLOWED MARTIN ROLON CENTURION WAS KILLED, HIS WIFE,
IGNACIA, WAS ARRESTED, AND HIS BROTHER, MELCHOR,
ESCAPED.

2. THE ARCHBISHOP'S SECRETARY, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02294 062033Z

INVESTIGATED THE CASE AT THE BEHEST OF EUROPEAN
ORGANIZATIONS, INFORMS THE EMBASSY THAT HE RECEIVED
THE SAME INFORMATION FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND
THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. A FORMER FELLOW PRISONER
OF MARTIN'S WIFE, IGNACIA ROLON, TOLD THE EMBASSY
THAT THE WIFE TOLD HER THAT MARTIN WAS ALIVE
WHEN SHE LAST SAW HIM ON APRIL 4, 1976, BUT THAT

SHE WAS LATER TOLD BY THE POLICE THAT HE WAS DEAD AND THAT SHE NOW BELIEVES IT. OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT HE MAY NOT HAVE DIED DURING THE SHOOT-OUT, BUT SHORTLY THEREAFTER AT THE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS CENTER.

3. IN THE COURSE OF ITS INQUIRIES, THE EMBASSY ALSO ENCOUNTERED ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT MARTIN ROLON WAS STILL ALIVE AND BEING HELD AT THE SECURITY GUARDS' BARRACKS AT TACUMBU PRISON. ALTHOUGH WE THINK THIS UNLIKELY, THE GOP HAS BEEN KNOWN TO MAKE MISTAKES IN SUCH CASES AND WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO CHECK OUT THIS STORY AND REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS.

4. IN ADDITION TO HIS WIFE, THREE OF MARTIN'S BROTHERS, SANTIAGO, MELCHOR, AND ALBINO, AND HIS FATHER, JUAN, WERE ARRESTED IN APRIL 1976. THE WIFE, ALBINO, AND THE FATHER, WERE ALL RELEASED IN NOVEMBER 1976. THE OTHER TWO BROTHERS ARE BEING TRIED UNDER PARAGUAY'S ANTI-SUBVERSIVE LAWS. ANOTHER BROTHER, DOMINGO, IS REPORTED BY CHURCH SOURCES TO HAVE BEEN HELD AT THE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS CENTER SINCE HIS RETURN FROM ARGENTINA IN LATE 1976, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE OFFICIAL LISTS.

5. WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED MARTIN'S CASE WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE PARAGUAY CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS, THE LATTER SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASUNCI 02294 062033Z

SWISS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GRANTING REFUGE TO SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF MARTIN ROLON CENTURION'S FAMILY. IF SO, WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SUPPORT, AS APPROPRIATE, EFFORTS TO RELOCATE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY IF THEY WISH TO LEAVE PARAGUAY. LANDAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, POLITICAL PRISONERS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ASUNCIO2294
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770201-0817
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770689/aaaaczui.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7690b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERN 2437
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2270060
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF PARAGUAYAN POLITICAL PRISONER MARTINO ROLON CENTURION
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PA, SZ, (ROLON CENTURION, MARTINO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7690b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009